

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
April 18, 2002
NWIFC Conference Center
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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| Bresler, Helen | DOE |
| Clark, Jeffrey | Weyerhaeuser |
| Cramer, Darin | DNR |
| Edson, Scott | Colville Confederated Tribes |
| Glass, Domoni | |
| Hayes, Mark | WDFW |
| Hunter, Mark | WDFW |
| Jackson, Terry | WDFW |
| Keller, Steve | |
| Liquori, Mike | Campbell Group |
| Martin, Doug | CMER Co-chair |
| McConnell, Steve | NWIFC |
| McNaughton, Geoff | Adaptive Management Program Administrator, DNR |
| Mobbs, Mark | Quinault |
| Parks, Dave | DNR |
| Pavel, Joseph | NWIFC |
| Peterson, Pete | Upper Columbia United Tribes |
| Poon, Derek | EPA |
| Price, David | WDFW |
| Pucci, Dawn | Suquamish Tribe |
| Quinn, Timothy | WDFW |
| Raines, Mary | NWIFC |
| Robinson, Tom | WSAC |
| Rowe, Blake | Longview Fibre |
| Rowton, Heather | WFPA |
| Schuett-hames, Dave | NWIFC |
| Sturhan, Nancy | DNR |

Minutes: Minutes of the March 21, 2002 meeting were approved as amended through e-mail.

Budget: DNR is working on a new IAC contract for federal funds. Cost of living increases have now been incorporated into the budget.

NWIFC Staff: Three of the four CMER staff positions at NWIFC are currently filled. CMER discussed the needs that the fourth staff position could fill and agreed at an earlier meeting to hire a study implementation coordinator. An interview panel looked at six candidates and there is one candidate who is clearly more qualified than the rest. A panel has interviewed for the fourth staff position and has identified a preferred candidate. This candidate is well qualified and can offer a greater range of services than we initially anticipated; however, the salary cost will be larger than we budgeted for.

Discussion ensued. As a clarification, CMER staff is funded with federal dollars. Quinn suggested that we ask the NWIFC to consider reducing overhead, which is currently at 35%. He also suggested that we again ask DNR to reduce their overhead charge on CMER funds. He further suggests that CMER ask the policy committee to ask the legislature about cost of living increases for CMER staff. Another clarification, DNR currently bases their overhead charge on the number of FTE's on staff to CMER at DNR.

CMER Recommendation: Increase the NWIFC budget to \$322,000 to cover cost of living and travel expenses for CMER staff.

The policy committee will be asked to approach the legislature to request that this additional cost of living expense be added to the NWIFC budget.

CMER Vote: A motion to increase the NWIFC budget by an additional \$18,000 to pay for the higher skilled study implementation coordinator was put on the table. 12 CMER members were in favor and 8 were opposed. The issue will be forwarded to the Policy committee for resolution.

New business: The RMZ resample study is still on hold and may not occur this year; it is the only CMER money that may actually be cut from the budget. LWAG does have a contractor without a signed contract who is still willing to do the work. Policy will be informed of this possible cut.

SAG Requests:

RSAG Request: RSAG submitted a request that CMER approve the Temperature Workshop proceedings and executive summary as final work products. A major concern, expressed by Pavel and Jackson, is that shade should be measured from the edge of the CMZ, not over the water. Another concern is that the SAG is bringing forward a management concern. CMER needs to discuss whether this should be the case. RSAG will work on these concerns over the next month and will bring the report back for final approval at a later date.

SAGE request: To provide background, \$7,000 was approved by CMER to hire a contractor to look at the pre-fire data that exists for the eastside. The contractor put together the database and now they would like the data synthesized and summarized. SAGE is requesting an additional \$2,000 to fund this contractor to draft the summary report.

CMER Recommendation: CMER approved this request for \$2,000 unanimously.

UPSAG request: UPSAG is asking to submit an RFP for the Review of Headwater Channel Processes, which will likely come in at \$12-15,000 and this may need to be increased because there is a large amount of literature available. Martin suggesting tabling this item until we have finished with the afternoon session. CMER agreed with this recommendation and the request was tabled.

LWAG request: LWAG forwarded a proposal for a two-day workshop to focus on Bayesian and Information-theoretic approaches. This workshop has the potential to contribute to a variety of CMER approaches and projects. This is envisioned as a self-funded workshop with attendees paying a fee to take part in the workshop. It was suggested that LWAG continue to flesh out this workshop and submit the project for approval at a later date.

SRC Update: McNaughton said that the SRC is now reviewing the N/F Effectiveness study plan. The SRC is on schedule and the study design is due back on May 8th. Two reviews have already come back and the third is due May 30. Schuett-hames received a phone call from a reviewer with some questions but the rest of the reviewers are still anonymous. Martin suggested that the managing editor ensure that reviewers are also available if CMER has questions.

McNaughton pointed out that it is more costly to facilitate interaction with the SRC on study designs and final work products. We envisioned that CMER would only be interacting with the committee on final products. The fee schedule will be revisited soon and we may change the way that fees are charged to study plans.

Outside studies: There are outside studies that may be of interest to various SAGs. A suggestion was made that SAGs be permitted to request SRC review for these studies and be able to sponsor that review. . There was much discussion about this topic and review will be initiated on a case by case basis.

The SRC has a website where CMER can track projects as they work their way through the review process. Please visit it at: <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/outreach/CMER/SRC-agingPage2.html>

Other news: McNaughton reminded the group that CMER presented information to the Policy committee regarding PIPs and watertyping issues. The policy committee was not ready to make a decision and suggested that we need workshops to address these issues. There is not sufficient time at the policy meetings to gain in-depth understanding and make decisions.

Science topic suggestions:

- Growth and yield modeling, possibly with a presentation from the Growth and Yield Coop.
 - amphibians: habitat requirements, what types of studies are out there, what do they need, etc.
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McNaughton has been asked to remind the FPB of the science questions we are researching and why we have prioritized the way we have. He would like the SAGs to send him any revisions to their study summaries if they have them.

Next Meeting: May 16.
